

## Accepting Processed Product Documentation in the Summer Food Service Program

Commercial processed foods served in the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) must meet the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) SFSP meal pattern requirements. For information on the SFSP meal patterns and crediting foods, visit the "[SFSP Meal Patterns](#)" and "[Crediting Foods in the SFSP](#)" sections of the Connecticut State Department of Education's (CSDE) SFSP webpage.

SFSP sponsors must be able to document the meal pattern contribution of commercial processed foods. For example, to credit pizza as 2 ounces of the meat/meat alternates component, and two servings of the grains component, the manufacturer's documentation must indicate that the serving contains 2 ounces of cheese and 2 ounces of whole grain-rich (WGR) or enriched crust. The only acceptable types of documentation are:

- the original Child Nutrition (CN) label from the product carton, or a photocopy or photograph of the CN label shown attached to the original product carton; or
- a product formulation statement (PFS) signed by an official of the manufacturer stating the amount of each meal pattern component contained in one serving of the product.

SFSP sponsors must maintain this documentation on file. The CSDE will review product documentation during the Administrative Review of SFSP.

Commercial processed products without a CN label or PFS cannot credit in the SFSP.

Table 1 compares the criteria for CN labels and PFS forms. Only CN labels provide a guarantee of the product's contribution to the USDA's meal patterns for the Child Nutrition Programs. SFSP sponsors must check the crediting information on the PFS form for accuracy prior to using the product in reimbursable meals and snacks.


Table 1. Comparison of CN labels and PFS forms		
Criteria	CN label	PFS
Standard information required	✓	
Reviewed and monitored by the USDA	✓	
Includes USDA guarantee of meal component contribution for Child Nutrition Programs	✓	
Distinct six-digit product identification number	✓	
SFSP sponsor must check crediting information for accuracy prior to use		✓

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## Child Nutrition (CN) Labels

The USDA's CN Labeling Program is a voluntary federal labeling program for the Child Nutrition Programs. It provides food manufacturers the option to include a standardized food crediting statement on their product labels, which the USDA approves prior to use. CN labels provide a warranty against audit claims when SFSP sponsors use the product according to the manufacturer's instructions. Table 1 shows an example of a CN label.

Table 2. Sample CN Label

CN Label	
<div><div><b>1</b> <b>Chicken Stir-Fry Bowl</b></div><div>Ingredient Statement:</div><div><b>2</b> Chicken, brown rice, broccoli, red peppers, carrots, onions, water, olive oil, soy sauce, spices.</div><div><b>3</b> <b>CN</b></div><div>XXXXXX</div><div><b>CN</b> Each 4.5 oz Chicken Stir-Fry Bowl provides 1.5 oz eq meat, 1.0 oz eq grains, ¼ cup dark green vegetable, ¼ cup red/orange vegetable, and ⅓ cup other vegetable for Child Nutrition Meal Pattern Requirements. (Use of this logo and statement authorized by the Food and Nutrition Service, USDA 09/16). <b>CN</b></div><div><b>Net Wt.: 18 pounds</b></div><div><b>CN</b></div><div>Chicken Wok Company 1234 Kluck Street • Poultry, PA 1235</div><div><b>4</b> </div></div>	
<b>1</b> Product Name	<p>The CN Logo is the box with "CN" on each side, surrounding the meal pattern contribution statement. It is one of the four integral parts of a label (product name, ingredient statement, CN Logo, and inspection legend). All four parts must be on the product carton for the CN label to be valid.</p>
<b>2</b> Ingredient Statement	
<b>3</b> CN Logo	
<b>4</b> Inspection Legend	

CN labels are available only for main dish entrees that contribute to the meat/meat alternates component of the USDA's meal patterns, such as beef patties, pizza, and breaded fish portions. However, CN labels usually indicate the contribution of other meal components that are part of these products. For example, CN-labeled pizza may list contributions to the meat/meat alternates, grains, and vegetables components.

For more information, review the CSDE's resource, [Child Nutrition \(CN\) Labeling Program, USDA Memo SP 11-2015 \(v2\), CACFP 10-2015 and SFSP 13-2015: CN Labels Copied with a Watermark Acceptable Documentation](#), and [USDA Memo SP 27-2015, CACFP 09-2015 and SFSP 12-2015: Administrative Review Process Regarding the Child Nutrition \(CN\) Label, Watermarked CN Label and Manufacturer's Product Formulation Statement](#). The USDA's [Authorized Labels and Manufacturers](#) webpage lists approved CN-labeled products and manufacturers.

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## Product Formulation Statements

A product formulation statement (PFS) is a document developed by manufacturers that provides specific information about how a product credits toward the USDA's meal patterns for Child Nutrition Programs. It generally includes a detailed explanation of what the product contains and indicates the amount of each ingredient in the product by weight. Information on PFS forms can vary among manufacturers because the USDA does not monitor PFS forms. The USDA's [Food Manufacturers/Industry](#) webpage provides PFS templates for the meat/meat alternates, grains, fruits, and vegetables components.

PFS forms must meet the requirements below. SFSP sponsors must check the manufacturer's crediting information for accuracy prior to including the product in SFSP meals and snacks.

- The PFS must be on signed company letterhead and must demonstrate how the processed product contributes to the meal pattern requirements.
- Manufacturers may modify the USDA's PFS forms for various products that contribute to more than one meal component. For example, cheese pizza could have crediting information for the red/orange vegetable subgroup in addition to the meat/meat alternates and grains components. Manufacturers may use one PFS to document the crediting information for all meal components in a product.
- All creditable ingredients listed in the PFS must match a description in the USDA's [Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs](#). The manufacturer must clearly identify how each component contributes to the meal pattern requirements.
- The PFS should verify that the product's meal pattern contribution is not greater than the serving size of the product. For example, a 2.2-ounce beef patty cannot credit for more than 2 ounce equivalents of the meat/meat alternates component.
- The PFS should assure that the creditable components are visible in the finished product, such as sausage links, beans, cheese, or peanut butter. The PFS must also specify the method for crediting these items.



The USDA requires that foods must be visible (recognizable) to credit toward the meal patterns. The intent for this requirement is to ensure that children can easily identify the foods in reimbursable meals and snacks. The nutrition education aspect of the Child Nutrition Programs includes the goal of helping children recognize the food groups that contribute to healthy meals and snacks.

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For more information, review the CSDE's resource, *Product Formulation Statements*, and the USDA's handout, *Tips for Evaluating a Manufacturer's Product Formulation Statement*; and visit the "Crediting Commercial Processed Products in the SFSP" section of the CSDE's SFSP webpages.

## Resources

Appendix C: The USDA Child Nutrition Labeling Program (USDA's Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs):

[https://foodbuyingguide.fns.usda.gov/Content/TablesFBG/USDA\\_FBG\\_Appendix\\_C.pdf](https://foodbuyingguide.fns.usda.gov/Content/TablesFBG/USDA_FBG_Appendix_C.pdf)

Authorized Manufacturers and Labels (USDA webpage):

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/cnlabeling/usdausdc-authorized-labels-and-manufacturers>

Child Nutrition (CN) Labeling Program (CSDE):

<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/NSLP/Crediting/CNlabel.pdf>

CN Labeling (USDA webpage):

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/cnlabeling/child-nutrition-cn-labeling-program>

Crediting Commercial Processed Products in the SFSP (CSDE webpage):

<https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/Nutrition/Summer-Food-Service-Program/Documents#CreditingCommercialProcessedProductsSFSP>

Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs (USDA):

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/food-buying-guide-for-child-nutrition-programs>

Food Manufacturers/Industry (USDA webpage):

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/cnlabeling/food-manufacturersindustry>

Meal Patterns for the SFSP (CSDE webpage):

<https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/Nutrition/Summer-Food-Service-Program#MealPatterns>

Nutrition Guide: Summer Food Service Program (USDA):

[https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/resource-files/USDA\\_SFSP\\_NutritionGuide.pdf](https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/resource-files/USDA_SFSP_NutritionGuide.pdf)

Product Formulation Statements (CSDE):

<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/NSLP/Crediting/PFS.pdf>

Requirements for the Grains/Breads Component of the SFSP Meal Patterns (CSDE):

<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/SFSP/CreditingSFSP/ComponentGrainsBreadsSFSP.pdf>

Requirements for the Meat/Meat Alternates Component of the SFSP Meal Patterns (CSDE):

<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/SFSP/CreditingSFSP/ComponentMMASFSP.pdf>

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Requirements for the Milk Component of the SFSP Meal Patterns (CSDE):

<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/SFSP/CreditingSFSP/ComponentMilkSFSP.pdf>

Requirements for the Vegetables/Fruits Component of the SFSP Meal Patterns (CSDE):

<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/SFSP/CreditingSFSP/ComponentVegetablesFruitsSFSP.pdf>

Resources for the SFSP Meal Patterns (CSDE):

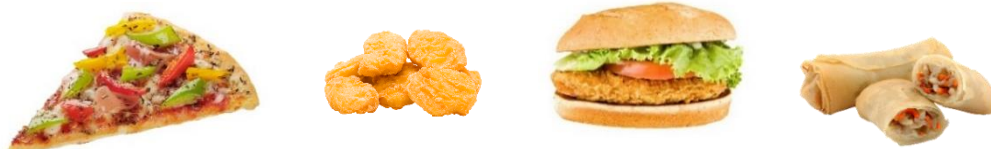
<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/SFSP/MealPattern/ResourcesSFSPMealPattern.pdf>

Reviewer's Checklist for Evaluating Manufacturer Product Formulation Statements for Meat/Meat Alternates (USDA):

[https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/reviewer\\_checklist.pdf](https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/reviewer_checklist.pdf)

Tips for Evaluating a Manufacturer's Product Formulation Statement (USDA):

<https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/resource-files/manufacturePFStipsheet.pdf>



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For more information, visit the [SFSP Meal Patterns](#) and [Crediting Foods in the SFSP](#) sections of the CSDE's SFSP webpage, or contact the [Summer Meals staff](#) in the CSDE's Bureau of Health/Nutrition, Family Services and Adult Education, 450 Columbus Boulevard, Suite 504, Hartford, CT 06103-1841.

This document is available at <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/SFSP/CreditingSFSP/AcceptDocumentationSFSP.pdf>.

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- (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

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